

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00477 170035Z

72

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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TAGS: MOPS, PINS, MZ

SUBJ: ALLEGED MOZAMBIQUE MASSACRES

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 466

1. OUTRAGED REFUTATIONS OF ALLEGED MASSACRE REPORTED LONDON
TIMES HAVE DOMINATED ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS IN LOCAL PAPERS
FOR PAST FIVE DAYS. COUNTER ALLEGATIONS BY DAILY TELEGRAPH
AND OTHER FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS DESCRIBING LONG ANTI- PORTU-
GUESE BIAS OF FATHER HASTINGS DATING FROM 1950'S, ABSENCE OF
ANY LOCATION IN TETE IDENTIFIABLE AS WIRYAMU AND LACK OF
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CERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER "MASSACRE" TOOK PLACE NEAR MUCUMBURA

OR JUST SOUTH OF TETE CITY, AND REFERENCES TO ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY FRELIMO GUERRILLAS, ALL GIVEN HEAVY PLAY.

2. DURING PAST TWO DAYS ALL PAPERS HAVE PUBLISHED ANNOUNCEMENT BY LOURENCO MARQUES' MAYOR INVITING CITY'S ENTIRE POPULACE TO ASSEMBLE JULY 16 IN FRONT OF CITY HALL AT 1600 HOURS TO DEMONSTRATE DISPLEASURE WITH INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AND SUPPORT FOR PORTUGUESE OVERSEAS POLICY. SOME DOZEN FOREIGN REPORTERS HAVE FLOWN TO TETE WHERE THEY ARE SEARCHING FOR ALLEGED "MASSACRE" SITE. SO FAR AS WE KNOW REPORTS FILED BY THEM THUS FAR TEND TO BE SKEPTICAL OF LONDON TIMES STORY.

3. ON JULY 13 GENERAL DE ARRIAGA GAVE PRESS INTERVIEWS TO REPRESENTATIVES OF AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, AFRICA NEWS SERVICE OF JOHANNESBURG STAR AND REUTER, FORMALLY DENYING THAT TROOPS UNDER HIS COMMAND WERE GUILTY OF ALLEGED "MASSACRE" IN TETE DISTRICT LAST DECEMBER. DE ARRIAGA ADMITTED COMBAT OPERATIONS TOOK PLACE LAST DECEMBER IN REGION OF MUCUMBURA NEAR RHODESIAN BORDER. HE SAID PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICE OF ARMED FORCES HAD FLOWN THROUGHOUT AREA IN HELICOPTERS TWO WEEKS BEFORE OPERATIONS STARTED TO INFORM LOCAL POPULACE THAT FIGHTING WOULD TAKE PLACE SOON AND INVITING THEM TO ABANDON THEIR VILLAGES AND TAKE REFUGE IN SECURITY ZONES, I.E. NEW VILLAGES (ALDEAMENTOS). DE ARRIAGA POINTED OUT THAT GIVING SUCH ADVANCE INFORMATION RISKED INFORMING FRELIMO OF PENDING OPERATION, THUS PREJUDICING ITS AFFECT BY REMOVING ELEMENT OF SURPRISE. HOWEVER, "IN NO CASE DID WE WISH TO RUN RISK OF KILLING LOCAL CIVILIANS AND THUS PREFERRED TO ACT AS WE DID". DE ARRIAGA SAID THAT PERSONS WHO REMAINED IN AREA DESPITE MANY ADVANCE WARNINGS COULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED MEMBERS OF OR SYMPATHIZERS WITH FRELIMO, AND OBVIOUSLY MAY HAVE SUFFERED.

4. CALLING ATTENTION TO THE PROPAGANDIST CHARACTER OF INFORMATION ON "MASSACRE", DE ARRIAGA SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES, PARTICULARLY FATHER HASTINGS, COULD HAVE WAITED SEVEN MONTHS BEFORE MAKING THEIR DECLARATIONS. HE SAID CAMPAIGN WAS "VERY WELL ORCHESTRATED" TO CORRESPOND WITH ARRIVAL IN LONDON OF PORTUGUESE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT MARCELLO CAETANO.

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PAGE 03 LOUREN 00477 170035Z

TM GENERAL DE ARRIAGA STRESSED SPECIAL NATURE OF MOZAMBIQUE WAR, OBJECTIVE OF WHICH IS TO WIN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE. CONSEQUENTLY HE DID NOT SEE HOW PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS COULD COMMIT MASSACRES WHICH WOULD IMMEDIATELY THRUST POPULACE INTO FRELIMO ARMS. GENERAL SAID THAT DURING ABOUT 10,000 OPERATIONS IN 30 MONTHS ONLY ABOUT 10 ACTS OF INDISCIPLINE HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES OF WHICH ONLY TWO WERE VERIFIED AS BEING JUSTIFIED. BOTH SOLDIERS RES-

PONSIBLE ARE NOW IN PRISON WAITING FOR JUSTICE TO TAKE ITS COURSE.

6. DE ARRIAGA INSISTED ATROCITIES ON LEVEL ALLEGED BY HASTINGS COULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED WITHOUT COMING TO HIS ATTENTION. HE POINTED OUT THAT ONLY SEVEN OUT OF THREE OF FOUR HUNDRED PRIESTS WORKING IN WAR ZONE ARE ASSOCIATED WITH ABOVE ALLEGATIONS. PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES HAVE NORMAL CONTACT WITH MOST OF LATTER. HE CONCLUDED THAT WAR CANNOT BE WON UNLESS PEOPLE ARE TOTALLY ON PORTUGAL'S SIDE - "COMPLETELY PORTUGUESE, COMPLETELY ANTI-COMMUNIST AND COMPLETELY NON-RACIAL." VAN OSS

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